



This publication has been adapted from MS LifeLines.



Most disease-modifying therapies (DMTs) are meant to be taken long term.
They are designed to slow disability progression.

Switching treatments is common

More than 30% of patients switch DMTs for reasons ranging from treatment expectations to side effects to financial concerns.

This could be due to:

- The side effects make them feel worse than the disease
- Their healthcare provider determines that their medication is not working
- They are having trouble taking their treatment

You should keep taking your DMT as prescribed, unless your healthcare provider tells you to stop. Always consult your healthcare provider about starting or stopping your MS treatment.

Treatment expectations

When people take a DMT, they may think it will prevent a relapse. This isn't necessarily the case. When you take a DMT, you may not notice the effects. DMTs work in the background to minimise damage and delay disability progression. DMTs don't treat symptoms.

When your treatment isn't working

If your healthcare provider does not think you are meeting your treatment goals, they may recommend you switch to another treatment. Be sure to let your neurologist know the following things:

- How long you have been using the DMT. It can take a year or longer for a DMT to take effect.
- Whether you have been using the prescribed amount at the prescribed times.

Side effects

Everybody's response to treatment is different. All treatments may have side effects, and some people experience worse side effects than others. No matter what you're experiencing, it's best to work with your healthcare provider to determine what to do next.

Tolerability and safety

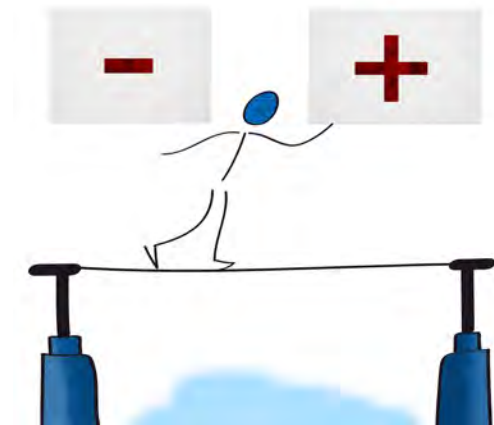
When you take a medication, *safety* and *tolerability* are 2 important terms to understand.

Safety refers to events that may present a risk of harm or injury and/or require medical attention. Safety may be evaluated by laboratory testing, special tests and procedures, and evaluation of patients. *Tolerability* is related to how much you can tolerate the side effects. Sometimes, people can tolerate certain side effects to meet their treatment goals. Other times, side effects can be unbearable, so a change of treatment may be recommended.

It's important to discuss with your healthcare provider whatever you're experiencing. He or she can assess if you require medical attention or adjustment to your treatment.

Weigh the benefits and risks

When switching to any new therapy, you have to weigh the benefits and risks with your doctor. Certain DMTs can put people at risk of serious infections. Your healthcare provider may want to send you for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan to check for new or growing lesions in your brain and spinal cord.



Different people respond better to different treatments. There are a number of DMTs available, so if your treatment isn't working for you, talk to your healthcare provider.

Every DMT affects the immune system differently. When switching treatments, your healthcare provider should evaluate the way your current and potential treatments may work in your body. If you are planning to have a baby, work with your neurologist to choose the right treatment plan for you.